

# THE DEEP DWELLERS

*The subterranean dwellers of various ancient religious and mythical traditions have parallels with the underworld beings of modern-day accounts.*

*Part 2 of 3*

by Wm Michael Mott © 2000

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## MODERN FORTEAN AND CRYPTOZOOLOGICAL CONNECTIONS

With the advent of the "scientific century", i.e., the 20th, occurrences which in earlier times would have been deemed "magical", demonic or the work of faeries, gods or witches were given descriptions or names which downplayed their inexplicable nature and sought to fit them somehow into a comprehensible, "modern" world view.

The problem then was, and continues to be, that such anomalous phenomena have defied the most rational, sceptical and "scientific" explanations. Also termed "Fortean" events, after anomaly researcher and writer Charles Fort, these occurrences have continually thrown a philosophical monkey-wrench into the cherished machinery of scientific dogma. In other words, science has no explanation for these events or discoveries, so it largely ignores, ridicules or dismisses them out of hand.

There is no doubt that many of these phenomena are genuine, and for now are beyond the ability of the currently dominant science belief system to explain. This brings to the fore the first category of research (outlined in part one), which may tie in very closely with "what has gone before".

## CRYPTIDS AND MYSTERY CREATURES

"Cryptozoology" is a term which was coined by Belgian biologist Bernard Heuvelmans to designate a field of study concerned with unknown creatures or animals, also referred to as "cryptids" ("hidden" animals). For the purposes of this study, the term "cryptid" will *not* be used to designate known or suspected known animals which are simply "out of place" or out of their customary environment; it will be reserved for those creatures which are truly "unknown".

The comings and goings of such creatures, their sudden appearances in remote, rural or densely populated areas and their equally sudden disappearances with scarcely a trace left behind have long befuddled researchers in the field of cryptozoology. With a careful examination of specific unknown animals or entities and their habitats, interesting connections to the ancient traditions are revealed.

### 1. Lake Monsters and Sea Serpents

Many freshwater lakes around the world have longstanding traditions of "lake monsters" of various types, ranging from humped or sinuous, scaled or plated, to sporting "elephant-like" hide and "horselike" manes of hair. Most such creatures appear sporadically, often in high mountain lakes or large isolated lakes of great depth with little or no access to the sea. Questions which have yet to be answered include:

1. How do such creatures maintain a breeding population of sufficient numbers to provide genetic diversity in relatively closed environments?
2. How do these populations, their bodies being of immense size, manage both to feed themselves and maintain a high core temperature, usually in cold waters with limited food resources?
3. What is the relationship of "lake monsters" to "sea serpents"?
4. If migratory, how do large populations of such creatures travel from lake to lake or from lake to ocean and ocean to lake?

Without a doubt, the most well known of such beasts is the "monster" of Loch Ness, a large deep lake in the Highlands of Scotland. Loch Ness is connected to the sea by the River Ness, yet sightings have only very rarely taken place in or at the river. The loch

itself, like many in Scotland, Ireland, Scandinavia and North America, has a longstanding tradition and reputation for being haunted by "kelpies", or shapeshifting, horse-headed, serpentine entities. These creatures are often described as having horselike heads and manes, long serpentine necks and huge humped bodies with four flippers.

Given the frigid water conditions at the loch (42°F or 5.5°C] on average) and the mammalian characteristics of the creatures, it stands to reason that they are either mammals or some sort of endothermic (warm-blooded) plesiosaur descendants, or dinosaur descendants (many of the theropod dinosaurs were endothermic, as are their descendants, the birds). Given the additional fact that they sometimes sport horns or "ossicorns" like those of a giraffe, the mammalian hypothesis (descendants of zeuglodon, primitive whales) may be the best bet.

The questions of where they originate, where they go when they vanish and how they maintain a stable diet still remain. A look at the structure of Loch Ness provides some clues.

It has been determined that at some point in the distant past, Loch Ness was an arm of the sea. Now it is seldom less than 300 feet (91.4 m) deep and routinely surpasses 400 feet (121.9 m) in depth. The bottom of the lake runs up in many instances to meet underwater cliffs and the submerged sides of the mountains which surround the loch. Sonar has indicated that the bases of these cliffs are honey-combed in places with very large caverns of undetermined depth and extent. Could these lead to even more vast underground caverns under the mountains, some containing air and eventually linking to other lakes and to the sea? This would certainly provide a feasible explanation for the mysterious movements and disappearances of these creatures, and perhaps to the question of their diet, which may be also that of an ocean-going animal or "sea serpent".

Perhaps the lakes and lochs around the world which boast of such creatures are simply places to breed and spawn in relative safety from the large predators of the oceans.

When it is taken into account that many other "vortex-haunted" lakes around the world have been found to have deep caverns which account for their "vortices" (created by the suction of even larger water-filled caverns and the movement of huge volumes of water), the whole matter shifts into perspective.

Such vortex-sporting, cavern-hiding lakes include Lake St Jean and Blue Sea Lake in Canada (the latter home to Misiganebic, a "horse-headed" dragon), as well as Pohenegamook, Massawippa, Memphremagog, and on and on. Loch Ness and the Walchensee in Bavaria, among others, are said to connect to the sea in similar fashion.

Given the distance of some of these bodies of water from the ocean, it is not unreasonable to assume that many deep aquifers are actually tributaries or parts of vast subterranean oceans of fresh water which may now be in danger of depletion by human usage from the surface.

Is there a connection between the reptilian yet mammalian "dragons" of large cold lakes and the vast cavern systems that may lie beneath them? The evidence would seem to indicate that this is the case. The cryptid dragon, with his underground lairs and underwater entrances to them, is apparently as active and secretive as the Chinese and Japanese versions ever were.

## 2. Hairy Humanoids

Many eyewitness accounts of hair-covered humanoids have been reported and documented over the years by people from a wide range of backgrounds and professions. While Bigfoot or Sasquatch is the type whose description is known to most people, perhaps equalled by the Yeti of the Himalayas (the "Abominable Snowman"), the literature would indicate that not only are these living flesh-and-blood creatures, but they come in a wide variety of physical configurations. Yet, like the lake monsters, they seem to "pop in and out" of our surface world reality and are amazingly difficult to track for creatures so large.

In addition to the towering, hirsute Bigfoot form, witnesses have reported: stunted, clawed versions with savage dispositions; black "winged" varieties (the Ixals of Mexico); screeching horrors with shaggy, hair-covered faces; gigantic varieties which would dwarf Sasquatch (like the Yeren of China); and more. In addition to the "rotten egg" or "skunk-like" odour which often accompanies most of these forms (as it does with Bigfoot, the Shampe of the Choctaw Indians and the Florida "skunk ape"), many sightings and encounters have taken place in or near caves or cavernous regions as well as abandoned mines and other man-made tunnels or potential entrances to unknown, underground areas.

Consider the underworld-exploring Enkidu, the hell-plumbing Chinese monkey, the hairy Scandinavian trolls and the fanged, baboon- or dog-headed monsters of Sumer, Egypt and other cultures, and a connection again becomes clear. These creatures come out into our world, usually by night, and then retreat into an "invisible" cavern or subterranean world about which only they know, vanishing "without a trace". This does not have a connotation of the supernatural but the connotation of a natural phenomenon and is a logical conclusion.

Not only does this indicate an underworld connection, but it also indicates an intelligent "covering" of tracks and evidence which is beyond the abilities of ordinary animals and can only be equated to the premeditated and well-planned actions of human beings—or of something at least as clever. It also begs the question of, at some level, possible human involvement of a covert nature in not only "hairy humanoid" matters but in other, more bizarre, cryptid accounts.

And disinformation—in the form of ridicule, evidence-tampering or intentional hoaxing—may also come into play at times. If this does occur, it does not automatically disqualify the phenomenon as a genuine one. It only complicates matters by introducing what may be the intended element into the equation, that element being obfuscation.

## 3. "El Chupacabras" and Other "Hybrid" Beings

Puerto Rico is a small island, only about 150 miles long by 45 miles wide (241.4 by 72.4 km), yet it has experienced enough paranormal and cryptid activity in its history to be a continent.

The native Taino, an Arawak tribe of the West Indies, feared creatures like the Araidai, a jungle goblin, and Konokokuyuha, a type of evil dwarf. The island has long been a haunt of hairy humanoids, mysterious winged creatures (some described as "pterodactyls") and unidentified flying objects (UFOs), with the entire human population in some areas at times living in terror.

**Is there a connection between the reptilian yet mammalian "dragons" of large cold lakes and the vast cavern systems that may lie beneath them?**

During 1975, Puerto Rico was stricken by a mysterious wave of livestock mutilations accompanied by UFO sightings. Many times, animals were drained of blood and left like emptied wine-skins for investigators to puzzle over. Twenty years later, in 1995, things turned really weird.

The mutilations and blood-drainings returned with a vengeance, and over a two-year period the "culprit" was seen or encountered first-hand by dozens of witnesses. Termed "El Chupacabras", or "The Goat-sucker", the creature seemed like something out of a cartoonist's nightmare. It was described as four to five feet tall, generally reptilian in appearance, with a kangaroo-like hip or haunch structure, spines along a back-ridge and a humanoid head with protruding, incandescent eyes reminiscent of descriptions of the "grey aliens" of ufology. Sometimes the creatures would be grey-green and hairless; sometimes they would have flat black or grey fur. With folding flaps of skin under their arms which connected to their rib cages, they could purportedly glide like flying squirrels or fly outright, and they had three-pronged retractable mouth-organs used for slicing, dicing and sucking blood and fluids.

At first it was thought that the sightings were surely an elaborate hoax, or simply hysteria, until the sheer number of incidents and reports reached overwhelming proportions. Hair was obtained from one mutilation site and analysed by a Japanese lab; while deemed to be "similar to the hair of a wolf", it was labelled as coming from an animal which was "unknown".

The creature was a typical cryptid in some respects, seemingly popping in and out of existence at a moment's notice and generating fear and confusion all over the island. From Puerto Rico, the Chupacabras events quickly spread to the rest of Latin America, including Mexico, South Florida and the desert southwest of the United States. This marked it as a distinctly cultural phenomenon (Hispanic), but that by no means indicates that it was not genuinely taking place.

A connection was soon suspected in Puerto Rico between El Chupacabras and the mountainous rainforested region of El Yunque, which is honeycombed with mostly unexplored cavern systems. In fact, caverns underlie much of the island.

Several witnesses reported seeing the creature or creatures fleeing to the El Yunque region when discovered or pursued. Soon, other parts of the Spanish-speaking world were reaching similar conclusions. And, like the demons of old, an acrid, debilitating, foul odour often accompanied the visits of the beast.

One brave soul, Jesus Sanchez, was victimised repeatedly, his rabbits being drained of blood. Finally, one morning at 4.00 am he surprised the invader by blinding it with a bright light. When it rushed to escape, he struck it with a machete—only to discover that "the blow sounded as if it had hit a drum". The creature, unscathed, made its disappearance as usual.

What is to be made of a report like this? How can a creature both "have hair" yet "sound like a drum" when struck (or shot, for that matter) and escape unharmed?

And why the almost methodical and indeed selective nature of the animal mutilations? Sometimes only blood would be taken;

other times, specific organs like livers would be missing. It should be noted that blood and the "meaty organs" were the very items offered to the dark gods of antiquity in the ancient Middle East and even in pre-Columbian America. The description of El Chupacabras is very reminiscent of that of the Sumerian Utukku or even the Gala and the Egyptian Ushabtiu—created as "artificial" life-forms (yet no less alive) to do the bidding of the Lords of the Underworld. Maybe times are tough in the subterranean realms and the "gods" have taken to stealing the substances which are no longer offered to them—or could it be that the Nagas are coming out to play?

The Utukku are reptilian in aspect, vaguely humanoid and slightly "winged", just like El Chupacabras. Again we are reminded of the chimerical, genetic hybrids mentioned in the Book of Enoch, which were created by the Nefilim (the Sumerian Annunaki and Igigi) before the Deluge when they "sinned against birds, wild animals, reptiles and fish", creating hybrid creatures to serve them. These monstrosities also terrorised mankind—as the people of Puerto Rico might verify!

Perhaps, instead of "looking skyward" for "alien invaders", we should start looking downward for ancient parasites which are more or less native to our planet.

#### 4. Other Forms

Creatures similar in description to El Chupacabras have been seen around the world, ranging from reptilian humanoids (the "Loveland Frog", "Lizard Man", etc.); "little people" of a wide variety of descriptions; bulbous-headed and bug-eyed, stick-thin grey humanoids; and winged anthropomorphic forms. Such appearances, or periods of intense "cryptid" or "alien" activity, are often hallmarked by animal mutilations, which involve precise (even surgically precise), selective organ removal and blood-draining, or else by mass disappearances of pets and livestock.

These sightings cannot all be dismissed as hallucinations or hoaxes, particularly the sighting reports which consist of several witnesses' testimony. The sheer number of sightings is too great for them to be so easily dismissed,

and the number of unexplained animal mutilations and disappearances which correspond with these "flaps" would seem to support this.

Sometimes these creatures are confronted with violent force, yet almost always they resound "as if hollow" and are otherwise impervious to human weaponry—as in the case of the "Hopkinsville Goblins" of Kentucky, which were shot by the witnesses. "Mothman" of West Virginia, a tall, winged humanoid who haunted the region of Point Pleasant—particularly an old military storage area which had "underground bunkers"—made mechanical whirring sounds as it flew and did not flap its wings at all. The now ubiquitous "grey aliens" have been described as "mechanical" in their motions, moving "stiffly" or "jerkily". This will be examined again shortly, but all of these beg an obvious question.

Are all of these "creatures" simply different makes and models

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of Utukku or Galatur? Are they the Golems and the Ushabtiu of old, and are they completely mechanical and artificially intelligent—or are they a melding of living genetics and non-living technology? Human beings are only now starting to create such technologies, but they do exist. What technology might be amassed through a simple cumulative process by an earlier, prehuman civilised species with hundreds of thousands or even millions of years of history behind it?

The entity known as Mothman, whose reign of terror lasted for thirteen months during 1967 and 1968 (as chronicled so well by John A. Keel in *The Mothman Prophecies*), made his visits to West Virginia, which it should be noted is one of the most densely cavernous areas of North America. So is Kentucky, for that matter, where the Hopkinsville "UFO" entities were encountered.

The same can be said of many areas of New England, which as a region has been the haunt of "the Dover Demon" (a term coined by cryptozoologist Loren Coleman), "lizard men", hairy humanoids, "mad gassers" of reptilian aspect, and a host of other creepy visitors.

The New England region is also the location of the "Morehedmoodus" area near East Haddam, Connecticut; in this area, the ground shakes and roars within, as if with "underground tempests" or as if titanic subterranean machinery is at work. This noisy and disconcerting phenomenon is known as "the Moodus Noises", and it has yet to be explained by mainstream science, government or anyone else with a room full of PhDs.

And of course, neither West Virginia nor New England is excessively far removed from another region which is famed for a distinctive "cryptid", "demon" or "creature": between both is the Pine Barrens region of New Jersey, home of the infamous "Jersey Devil". This creature not only shares some of the physical characteristics of El Chupacabras and Mothman, but in many accounts resembles the winged reptilian forms of the Sumerian Utukku, a dragon, or a mediaeval cockatrice or basilisk.

With their elusive dispositions, similar characteristics (among their "group" as well as with ancient forms) and nasty habit of collecting organs, blood or genetic material—not to mention a

general aversion to bright daylight or other bright lights, more often than not—the cryptid and "monster" scenario is brought into sharper focus. This multitude of beings is not from "elsewhere"; the odds for that are simply too great, given the variety of forms encountered and taking into account the already considerable genetic diversity that we know about which has sprung from the biosphere of the Earth. The scientific principle known as "Occam's Razor" would indicate that, given the choice between a staggering variety of beings from a staggering variety of worlds lost in interstellar space, or a naturally (or even artificially) diverse varieties of life-form which have sprung from one ecological system (hence, for instance, the mostly bipedal, two-handed, two-legged, two-winged, four-flippered configurations, all variations on the earthly vertebrate tem-

plate), the latter would have to be the most rational and logical choice for a theory of origin. No, they are coming and going at will from some place very near at hand, and the circumstantial evidence would seem to indicate that place to be the hidden bowels of our own planet.

#### RE-INVENTION, PARANOIA AND DECEPTION

##### 1. The Degenerates Below

In December 1943, the pulp magazine *Amazing Stories* opened a can of worms which would eventually grow into a controversial storm of accusa-

tions, ridicule, denial and resentment.

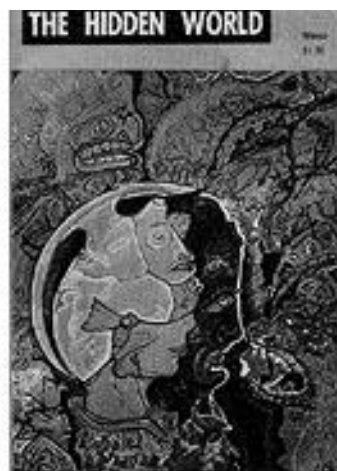
An unknown welder named Richard S. Shaver told the world a story which sounded like a blend of paranoid-schizophrenic delusions, hallucinations and bad science fiction. Working with the "assistance" of Ray Palmer, editor of *Amazing Stories*, Shaver began to tell his allegedly "true" tales of deep-cavern civilisations, genetically degenerated, technologically advanced troglodytes, and an ancient high technology which gave these beings amazing powers over the unsuspecting inhabitants of the surface world.

Strangely, in addition to their "death ray" (laser or electromagnetic weapon), "thought ray" (telepathy) and illusion (holographic) "mech" or machines, these new incarnations of the "deep dweller" concept had silent, flying ships which Shaver described as "discs", which were kept hangared beneath the Earth's surface and were used regularly. This was five years before Kenneth Arnold's famous "first" sighting of nine objects over Mt Rainier in Washington state—objects which he referred to as "saucer-like", hence inadvertently helping to coin the modern term "flying saucer".

Additionally, the troglodytes could produce "solid illusions" of creatures or objects, even their disc-like craft, which were temporarily physical then dissipated or were "turned off". How many times have UFOs just "disappeared" from radar screens around the world?

Shaver's underworld was

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Selected covers of magazines which featured the "true" stories and commentaries of Richard S. Shaver.

inhabited by two ancient races which had originally been one, which he termed "dero", for "detrimental robot" ("degenerate" would have been more accurate), and "tero", for "integrative energy robot" (the "good guys"). According to the welder-turned-writer, he had not only been contacted and tormented by the beams of these beings but he had been "helped" by the tero in defeating the assaults of the dero and had actually been in the cavern-world himself.

Readers responded to Shaver's accounts in two ways: they either reviled and ridiculed him and his "underworld", which was often depicted as sexually and violently brutal; or they wrote in with letters of support and accounts of their own, in an effort to corroborate his stories! Ultimately, "the Shaver Mystery", as it was called, drove Ray Palmer from *Amazing Stories* and into business for himself, and generated an uproar (and an income) for both Palmer and Shaver that would last, to some degree, until both of their deaths in the 1970s.

Was Richard Shaver unbalanced and delusional, or was he simply a talented and outrageous storyteller? Or was he telling stories which were half truth, half confabulation? In his youth he had spent some time in a mental hospital, a fact which generated contempt and ridicule from others throughout his life, but wouldn't actual, repeated contact by such beings as his "dero" push even a strong mind over the edge and into partial delusion? "Confabulation" is one common reaction which the human mind uses as a defence mechanism when it is hiding a traumatic event from full recollection.

Regardless of the proportion of truth to fantasy in his accounts, Shaver's choice of words to describe his tormentors—"robots"—is interesting. While "fleshly" and possessed of animalistic lusts, the dero and tero are nevertheless "programmed" victims, to a greater or lesser degree, of "harmful" or "de" (destructive, degenerate, etc., according to Shaver) thinking. He attributed the degeneration of the subterraneans to damaging solar and cosmic radiation (from which they still hide underground) and to the destructive radiations of their own "stim" (sexual and other stimulation) machines. They kidnap surface humans, particularly women, for sexual pleasure (or procreation?), eat human beings and take great delight in causing mayhem, destruction, confusion and terrifying apparitions (holograms) in the surface world.

As an aside and interjection, Shaver's claims of the abilities of dero machinery would explain many additional mysteries which have not been examined here so far. To touch on just one example would be to examine the case of "the Bell Witch" of Robertson County, Tennessee, a malevolent and violent entity which terrorised a family in the early 1800s. The Bell Witch, so-called because "she" haunted the Bell family, went to great lengths to create the illusion that she was omnipresent and omniscient, although she was fooled and eluded upon several occasions by her victims. Beginning with standard "poltergeist" activities, the "spirit" worked its way up to invisibly dealt physical blows



A curious "picture rock", one of many images "brought out" by Richard S. Shaver.

and attacks, and throughout the ordeal, which spanned many years, spoke to, sang for and reviled the Bell family. The activities of this entity were witnesses by hundreds of people, including Andrew Jackson, the seventh President of the United States.

Only now, in our "modern" age, is it noticed that at first the "voice" of the "witch" was booming, hollow and metallic, only later and after considerable practice taking on a regular, well-modulated tone; and the origin of the thing was said to be in the "Bell Witch Cave", a deep and mostly uncharted cavern system that was at that time on the Bell family property. The "witch"

itself claimed that the cave was its home, and forbade anyone to enter there. Local Native Americans had shunned the cave and surrounding land as haunted or cursed, long before the first white settlers arrived. To this day, witnesses swear that the still-unplumbed cavern system is haunted and even guarded by the same evil being.

A terrible story, indeed, and sure to engender fear and foreboding; perhaps the perfect type of story to make certain that a short and direct route to some

underworld lair, loaded with "special effects" equipment or "mech", is not tried or violated... Spelunkers and other brave souls have yet to seriously attempt to explore the "Bell Witch Cave" deep cavern system. It looks like the project may have achieved its desired goal of keeping people out, after all.

As evidence of his obsession with proving the veracity of his stories, Richard S. Shaver was one of the few "contactees" by "alien" or nonhuman forces to make an effort to produce physical evidence. He claimed that many rocks and boulders in specific regions around the world are actually great shattered libraries of ancient crystals, containing three-dimensional images or hologram records.

To prove this point, in later years he took to finding such "picture rocks" and cutting them open with a rock-saw to reveal what he said were glimpses of the ancient records. He would use paint to accentuate or "bring out" these images, but only worked along

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the edges or strata of shapes which were pre-existing. Some of his "picture rocks" were in fact quite startling, depicting humans or human-like beings, human-animal hybrids, giants, and humans battling with creatures which look suspiciously like the Nagas, El Chupacabras or something similar. In 1975, Ray Palmer featured many of these pictures, along with Shaver's commentaries, in *The Secret World*.

The forms described by Shaver should be familiar by now. The dero—dark elves, or trolls, or Nagas, or Utukku/Ushabtiu—and the tero—the "noble faeries", Tuatha de Danaan, or "Aryan/Nordic Masters"—have simply manifested in a more contemporary, pseudo-scientific form. The Naga *vimana* disc-craft are present, and the abduction and genetic rape motif of all underworld Nagas/goblins/faeries is present as well. The "treasure of the Nibelungs", or the hoarded wealth of dragons, has been replaced by ancient and super-scientific "mech", a technology which bestows godlike powers upon its owners. And like the trolls, goblins, vampires and the rest of the ages-old under-

world crew, these subterranean beings are in hiding from the Sun, living in mole-like terror of its direct rays.

A relationship between Shaver's underworld inhabitants and those of the past is hopefully not so much literal and based in some terrible reality as it is archetypal and obvious.

Continued next issue...

### About the Author:

Wm Michael Mott is the Creative Director for a high-performance US software company. He is also a freelance artist and writer of both fiction and non-fiction. He has worked as an artist/designer for *Fortune 500* companies and for a variety of book and magazine publishers. His artwork has appeared in publications such as *Computer Graphics World Magazine*, *Computer Artist*, *IEEE Computer Graphics and Applications*, *Dragon Magazine*, *UFO Magazine* and others. He's created award-winning artwork and graphic design for mass-market book covers, posters, brochures, packaging, CD-ROM covers and art collections as well as for digital/web-based media. Mott's artwork has been featured in the exhibition *In Dreams Awake: Art of*

*Fantasy* at the Olympia and York Gallery in 1988, at the 1987 World Fantasy Con and in other exhibits.

Mott's satirical fantasy novels, *Pulsifer: A Fable* and *Land of Ice, A Velvet Knife*, are published electronically by SoftBook Press/Gemstar ([www.softbook.com](http://www.softbook.com)), and will soon also be available from the author in a deluxe illustrated version on CD-ROM. The first of a series of illustrated short stories appeared in September 2000 as a chapbook from Undaunted Press ([www.undauntedpress.com](http://www.undauntedpress.com)).

Mott has been researching Fortean and paranormal topics for over 20 years and has only recently decided to put the results of this research into written form, the result being the graphically rich book and CD-ROM, *Caverns, Cauldrons, and Concealed Creatures* (available from <http://www.hiddenmysteries.com>). Wm Michael Mott can be contacted by e-mail at [mottmorph@earthlink.net](mailto:mottmorph@earthlink.net).

### Editor's Note:

The bibliography accompanying this article will be published next issue.